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FOREIGN NEWS ON GOATS AND MOHAIR

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MOHAIR PROSPECTS IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA



The recent floods in the angora goat breeding districts of the Union of South Africa will probably tend to reduce the current clip to some extent on account of losses of goats, but prospects for future clips have been considerably brightened.

There are indications that most farmers have had some losses of goats, according to further reports on the effects of the recent floods in the angora goat districts received in the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. It is impossible to estimate what the total loss will be but it may be equivalent to from 120,000 to 150,000 pounds of firsts, states a report from the Port Elizabeth correspondent to the Wool Record and Textile World of May 10, 1928. An estimate of summer firsts (clipped in December, January and February, 1927-28) for this year is 2,700,000 pounds, according to a cable of May 9 to the Wool Record and Textile World. This is smaller than that of last year which was estimated to be not larger than from 2,850,000 to 3,150,000 pounds and almost 40 per cent smaller than the average for the 5 years 1923 to 1926 of 4,386,000 pounds. The clip of summer firsts usually constitutes about one-third of the total mohair clip produced in the Union of South Africa.

Every dam in the whole angora goat-growing district is now full to overflowing and the veld has been thoroughly soaked. The extreme hot weather is over and the position should be absolutely secure for good feeding conditions until next September. This should mean that the percentage of kids born and reared this season will be larger than has been the case for many years. Unfortunately the number of breeding ewes is smaller than for some time but the percentage of kids is expected to be higher than it has been. The improved conditions can make no impression on next year's summer clip (December, January, February, 1928-29) which will probably be about the same as that of this year, perhaps even smaller, according to reports. Unless something unforeseen occurs, however, there should be 600,000 pounds of kid hair next year instead of 300,000 estimated for this year and also last, according to Wool Record and Textile World. The average production for the five years 1923-26 was 800,000 pounds.

